

Message Text

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ARA/MEX-MR. FALK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EFIS, MX

SUBJECT:GOM FISHING LICENSES FOR US VESSELS

1. DEPT. HAS LEARNED THAT A NUMBER OF U.S. FISHING VESSELS WHICH HAVE PURCHASED LICENSES FROM GOM EARLIER THIS YEAR TO OPERATE INSIDE 12-MILES OF MEXICO, MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET RENEWAL OF LICENSES ONCE EXPIRED. THESE ARE SMALL VESSELS WHICH ARE NOW FISHING UNDER LICENSES PURSUANT TO GOM REQUIREMENTS AND WHICH, FOR THE MOST PART, COULD NOT SUSTAIN A VIABLE LIVING IF FORCED TO OPERATE STRICTLY OUTSIDE OF 12 MILES OF MEXICO. DEPT'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IN PAST YEARS RENEWALS HAVE BEEN MORE OR LESS AUTOMATIC ONCE VESSEL HAD SECURED LICENSE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.

2. FISHATT IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE GOM AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE IF CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO NON-RENEWAL OF CERTAIN LICENSES AND TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN IF THIS IS THE CASE. IN PARTICULAR, FISHATT IS REQUESTED TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR FOLLOWING VESSELS WHICH PURCHASED LICENSE AT FIRST OF YEAR AND WHICH HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN INFORMED THAT LICENSES WILL NOT BE RENEWED: CONTE BIANCO (REPLACEMENT VESSEL FOR INVADER, WHICH SANK), COUNTESS
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(REPLACEMENT VESSEL FOR BALI II, WHICH SANK), HER GRACE,

HATTIE DO, PROUD MARY (FORMERLY LOUISE), THERESA B, FINBACK, ELLA JEAN (FORMERLY COHO II), ANGELA MIA, D. J., ELUSIVE, HAAKON, LAURRA M., MARY LUCILLE, MARY JO, ROSE MARIE, SEEDLER, VIKING, SOUTHWIND.

3. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, AFTER 4 SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1972 AND EARLY 1973, USG AND GOM WORKED OUT INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING REGARDING OPERATION OF LICENSING SYSTEM AND APPLICATION OF MEXICAN LAW AS IT AFFECTS US FISHERMEN DESIRING TO OPERATE INSIDE 12-MILES OF MEXICO. FISHATT IS AWARE OF PROBLEMS WHICH EXISTED EARLIER IN YEAR REGARDING THIS, AND CURRENT PROBLEMS OF RENEWAL ARE ONE MORE MANIFESTATION OF A GENERAL DETERIORATION IN THIS WHOLE LICENSING SITUATION. DEPT. BELIEVES THAT LICENSING QUESTION SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, BUT APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE DURING TALKS PLANNED FOR NEAR FUTURE GENERATED BY MEXICAN MOVE TO 200-MILES. LICENSING QUESTION WILL BECOME ONE OF ACCESS INSIDE 200-MILES AND COMPLETELY NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN THAT CONTEXT. OUR HOPE, AND POINT WHICH FISHATT CAN MAKE TO GOM, IS THAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LICENSING QUESTION IS DISCUSSED BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN CONTINUE AS IN THE PAST AND WITH A MINIMUM OF DISRUPTION TO THE U.S. FISHERY. INGERSOLL

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